

## Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 DPW-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /139 W

----- 098864

R 151100 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3255

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10793

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: BARGAINING CONTINUES AS FILING DEADLINE APPROACHES FOR  
UPPER HOUSE CANDIDATES

REF: SAIGON 10673

1. AS OF 12 NOON ON JUNE 15, NO SLATES HAD BEEN FILED AT THE MINISTRY  
OF INTERIOR FOR THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTION. THIS NOT SURPRISING,  
HOWEVER, SINCE MOST PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES WILL PROBABLY USE ALL  
THE AVAILABLE TIME UP TO THE JUNE 17 DEADLINE TO CONSIDER THEIR ALTER

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NATIVES. A NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE SOUGHT FILING FORMS AT THE MINISTRY,  
INCLUDING SOMEONE SAYING HE CAME ON BEHALF OF " THE WORKER- FARMER  
PARTY AND PROFESSOR NGUEYN NGOC HUY".

2. THE SLATE- FORMING EFFORTS OF THE VARIOUS GROUPS OUTSIDE THE  
DEMOCRACY PARTY APPEAR TO BE GETTING NOWHERE, THOUGH MEETINGS  
AND CONSULTATIONS ARE UNDERWAY AT AN INTENSE PACE. THE CATHOLIC-  
ORIENTED FREEDOM PARTY HAS TRIED SERIOUSLY TO FORGE A SLATE WITH  
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SENATOR MAU'S WING OF THE BUDDHISTS, AND MAU IS CLEARLY INTERESTED IN THE OFFER. ON JUNE 14, A KNOWLEDGEABLE BUDDHIST LAY LEADER WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT A COMBINED SLATE WOULD BE FORMED, PROVIDED AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON A SLATE LEADER. HOWEVER, ON JUNE 15 A CATHOLIC POLITICIAN SAID THERE WERE NOT ENOUGH CANDIDATES OF STATURE IN THE TWO GROUPS WHO WISHED TO RUN. SENATOR HONG SON DONG HAS DECIDED NOT BE A CANDIDATE, FOR EXAMPLE, AND NONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE GREATER SOLIDARITY FORCE COMPONENT OF THE FREEDOM PARTY, INCLUDING EX- SENATOR NGUEYN GIA HIEN, ARE INTERESTED. AT LAST WORD, THE FREEDOM PARTY HAS NOT ABANDONED ITS SLATE- MAKING EFFORTS, BUT PROSPECTS ARE GETTING DIMMER.

3. THE CURRENT POSITION OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE IS SINGULARLY UNCLEAR. AN ATTEMPT TO DRAW UP A PREDOMINANTLY SDA SLATE HEADED BY TRAN QUOC BUU REPORTEDLY FELL THROUGH ON JUNE 15 WHEN BUU REFUSED TO ACCEPT SLATE'S LEADERSHIP. ACCORDING TO SOME SOURCES, THE LATEST STRATEGY OF THE SDA, OR AT LEAST SOME COMPONENTS OF IT, MAY BE TO SOUND OUT THE DEMOCRACY PARTY ABOUT SLOTS ON THE LATTER'S "COCKTAIL" LIST OF DP AND NON- DP MEMBERS. SENATOR DANG VAN SUNG TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER JUNE 15 THAT HE HAS PROPOSED SUCH A SLATE TO THE DP. HE REASONED THAT THIEU DOES NOT NEED A FULL DOUBLE- SLATE VICTORY TO CONTROL THE FUTURE UPPER HOUSE. IF ONE OF THE TWO WINNING SLATES HAS SEVEN DP MEMBERS AND EIGHT CANDIDATES FROM THE SDA AND ELSEWHERE, THESE SEVEN WILL GIVE THIEU SUFFICIENT CONTROL, BECAUSE THEY WILL JOIN FIFTEEN DP MEMBERS ON THE OTHER WINNING SLATE AND ROUGHLY TEN HOLDOVER THIEU SUPPORTERS. MEANWHILE, THE NON- DP MODERATES ON THE COMBINED SLATE WOULD BE COAXED AWAY FROM A DISGRUNTLED OPPOSITION STANCE, A RESULT SUNG CONSIDERED IMPORTANT. HE CONSIDERED HIMSELF A POSSIBILITY FOR THIS SLATE ALONG WITH SOME SDA MEMBERS AND NON- PARTY PERSONALITIES.

4. AS FOR THE DEMOCRACY PARTY, THERE IS LITTLE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS REPORTING. MULTIPLE DP SLATES STILL APPEAR VERY PROBABLE, THE PRINCIPAL QUESTIONS BEING HOW MANY AND WHETHER ONE OR MORE OF THEM WILL INCLUDE NON- DP CANDIDATES ALONG THE LINES ADVOCATED BY SUNG.

WHITEHOUSE

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

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**To:** BANGKOK  
BIEN HOA  
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